

September 13, 2006

Panel on Solid-Earth Hazards, Resources, and Dynamics

Bradford H. Hager, Chair

54-622

Dept. of Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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Panel on Water Resources and the Global Hydrologic Cycle

Dennis P. Lettenmaier, Chair

Surface Water Hydrology research Group

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Panel on Earth Science Applications and Societal Needs

Dr. Anthony C. Janetos, Chair

Senior Fellow

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Dear Panel Chairmen:

On behalf of the Western States Water Council, representing the governors of eighteen western states, I am writing to urge you to support spending for thermal infrared (TIR) remote sensing. This information is increasingly critical for the management of western water resources and watersheds and administration of state water rights, particularly agricultural water use, which is the predominate use in the West.

Attached please find a copy of a letter to the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) that was recently adopted as a position statement by the Council expressing support for maintaining the availability of Landsat thermal information. The Council is very interested in the future of the Landsat Data Continuity Program, and the availability of thermal data. Moreover, the Western Governors' Association has expressed its support in a letter that is also attached. We hope that you will consider this support and seek to ensure the availability of this data as we struggle to balance water uses and demands in the West.

Sincerely,



Duane A. Smith, Chairman

Western States Water Council